

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

In Claim 9, line 2, --Kuczynski-- has been removed, and "skin" inserted.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose the claimed invention. Specifically, the closest prior art of record, U.S. Patent 5,722,965, fails to disclose an ostomy bag having a second flange for coupling to a first flange on the body side member, the second flange having a flexible layer bonded to its outer surface, and an adhesive layer affixed to the outer surface of the flexible layer, wherein the bond between the flexible layer and the second flange is stronger than the connection between the adhesive layer and the first flange. Due to this configuration, the flexible layer remains bonded to the second flange when the bag is removed from the body side member, since the bond between the flexible layer and the second flange is stronger than that of the adhesive layer and the first flange. The prior art of record discloses a flexible layer bonded to the first flange on the body side member, not the second flange on the bag. The prior art of record therefore does not anticipate nor fairly suggest the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (571)272-4932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Art Unit: 3761

/L. A./

Examiner, Art Unit 3761

/Tatyana Zalukaeva/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3761